

Remarks

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8-12, 14, 15, 17 and 20-22 are amended. Claims 7, 26 and 27 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claim 28 is added. Claims 1-6, 8-25 and 28 are pending.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the input mechanism, a plurality of leafing mechanisms, a plurality of personalization mechanisms, and the arrangement of the leafing and personalization mechanisms. The amendments are supported by the original disclosure, for example page 5, line 25 to page 6, line 1; page 7, lines 4-5; and Figures 1-2.

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8-12, 14, and 15 have been amended as a result of the amendments to claim 1 and to improve their form.

Claim 17 has been amended to recite first and second leafing mechanisms for turning to first and second pages. The amendments are supported by the original disclosure, for example page 5, line 25 to page 6, line 1 and Figures 1-2.

Claims 20-22 have been amended as a result of the amendments to claim 1 and to improve their form.

New claim 28 is supported by the original disclosure, for example page 6, lines 29 to page 7, line 3.

No new matter has been entered.

Claim Objections

Claims 26 and 27 are objected to for the informalities of record. Claims 26 and 27 have been canceled. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim Rejection

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 364,730.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and reconsideration is requested in view of the following.

Claims 1, 17 and 28 each recite a plurality of leafing mechanisms. EP 364,730 discloses using only a single page turning mechanism (see, e.g., Figures 4 and 6). For the benefit of the

Examiner, a translation of EP 364,730 is enclosed. Absent a disclosure of a plurality of leafing mechanisms, EP 364,730 does not anticipate the claims.

Nor does EP 364,730 disclose the use of multiple leafing mechanisms as claimed.

As disclosed, Applicant's system is designed to achieve high rate, high volume production of documents such as passports (page 2, lines 1-11). One way to achieve this is to reduce the transport times of the document within the system. By utilizing multiple leafing mechanisms, with a leafing mechanism upstream of at least two personalization modules, the need to reverse direction of the document to feed the document back to a leafing mechanism after personalization by one mechanism is minimized and/or eliminated. Instead, after personalization by one personalization mechanism, if the document is to be personalized on a new page, the document is fed to a second leafing mechanism for turning to the correct page. The document does not need to be reversed to be fed back to a common leafing mechanism. The result is a reduction in the transport time of the document in the system, which results in faster production.

The apparatus in EP 364,730 includes an opening device A, a laser personalization/printer mechanism S4', and a shutting device S (Figure 4). The mechanism S4' is disclosed as being a combination laser mechanism and printer, or the laser mechanism and the printer could be separate (see page 9, lines 1-3 of the enclosed translation). In another embodiment, a page opening/turning device SW is provided, as is a laser mechanism S4' (Figure 6). In this embodiment, the passport is transported back and forth between the device SW and the laser S4' in order to personalize different pages (see page 9, lines 12-18 of the translation).

As should be apparent from the disclosure in EP 364,730, after personalizing one page, if a new page needs to be personalized, the passport must be transported back to the page turning mechanism to turn to the proper page, and then transported once again to the personalization mechanism. Because the passport must reverse direction in the transport path, the transport mechanism must be constructed to be reversible in order to achieve the reverse passport movement. Designing a transport mechanism to be reversible complicates the construction of the transport mechanism. Further, the reverse movements increase the transport travel distance of the passport during the personalization procedure, which increases the transport time of the passport within the system, which decreases the rate of personalization of the passport.

The claimed arrangement eliminates the need to reverse direction of the document, which results in an increase in production rate and volume.

For at least these reasons, the claims are patentable over EP 364,730. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

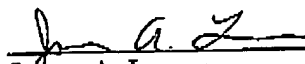
Conclusion

Applicants believe that the claims now pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: October 15, 2002


James A. Larson
Reg. No. 40,443

S/N 09/768,449

PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	KREUTER ET AL.	Examiner:	ST. CYR
Serial No.:	09/768,449	Group Art Unit:	2876
Filed:	JANUARY 24, 2001	Docket No.:	2968.204USU1
Title:	PASSPORT PRODUCTION SYSTEM AND METHOD		

Marked-Up Copy Showing Changes MadeIn the Claims

Claims 7, 26 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8-12, 14, 15, 17, and 20-22 have been amended as follows.

1. (Amended) A system for personalizing a multiple page, bound document, comprising:
- an input mechanism constructed to receive a plurality of the bound documents;
 - a plurality of leafing [mechanism] mechanisms disposed downstream from said input mechanism, each said leafing mechanism [constructed to receive the bound document in an open or closed configuration, said leafing mechanism] including an apparatus for turning pages of the document; and
 - a plurality of personalization [mechanism] mechanisms disposed downstream from said input mechanism, each said personalization mechanism capable of performing a personalization operation on a page of the document;[, said personalization mechanism disposed either downstream or upstream from said leafing mechanism]
 - wherein said leafing mechanisms and said personalization mechanisms are arranged so that, for at least two of said personalization mechanisms, there is one said leafing mechanism upstream of each of said two personalization mechanisms.

2. (Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said two personalization [mechanism] mechanisms comprises a laser personalizing module that includes a laser for laser-personalizing a page of the bound document.

4. (Amended) The system of claim 1, [further including an input mechanism,]
wherein said input mechanism is configured to hold [a plurality of] the bound documents in [the]
a closed configuration.

6. (Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said two
personalization [mechanism] mechanisms comprises a printer [module] mechanism that is
configured to perform printing on a selected page of the bound document.

8. (Amended) The system of claim [7] 6, wherein [said second leafing
mechanism is disposed in] said printer [module] mechanism and one of said leafing mechanisms
are combined into a single module.

9. (Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein said printer [module] mechanism
includes a print head [downstream from said leafing mechanism], and further including a
recirculating mechanism for recirculating the bound document [back to said leafing mechanism]
to a location upstream of the print head after printing by the print head.

10. (Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein said printer [module] mechanism
includes an ink jet printer.

11. (Amended) The system of claim 1, further including a closing mechanism
[associated with at least one of said leafing mechanism and said personalization mechanism] for
closing the bound document.

12. (Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of
personalization [mechanism] mechanisms comprises an integrated circuit chip module.

14. (Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said leafing
[mechanism] mechanisms is configured to pass the document therethrough without turning a
page of the document.

15. (Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said personalization [mechanism] mechanisms is configured to pass the document therethrough without performing [the] a personalization operation.

17. (Amended) A method of personalizing a multiple page, bound document, comprising:
inputting a bound document [in an open or closed configuration] into a first leafing mechanism;
turning to a first preselected page using the first leafing mechanism;
inputting the document into a first personalization mechanism; [and]
performing a personalization operation on the first preselected page[.]; and
inputting the bound document into a second leafing mechanism, and turning to a second preselected page.

20. (Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein an input mechanism containing a plurality of the [closed,] bound documents is located upstream of said first leafing mechanism, and further including mechanically picking a bound document from the input mechanism and inputting the picked document into the first leafing mechanism.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 17, [wherein an output mechanism is disposed downstream of the personalization mechanism, and] further including [receiving] discharging a personalized bound document [in the] into an output mechanism.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 17, further including inputting the document into [an additional leafing] a second personalization mechanism, and [opening the document to another predetermined page, and printing on said another predetermined page] performing a personalization operation on the second preselected page.

New claim 28 has been added.

European Patent Application 0 364 730

Applicant: GAO Gesellschaft für Automation und Organisation mbH

Application Number: 89116792.6

Filing Date: September 11, 1989

Title: Method and apparatus for manufacturing an identification document in book form

During the manufacture of passports comprising several paper sheets and a data sheet coated with transparent plastic foils, person-related data such as name, place of birth and date of birth of the passport owner are burnt into the internal paper sheet of the already plastic-coated data sheet by means of a laser beam. The passport can be bound to form a book before the plastic-coated data sheet and other paper data sheets are provided with data relating to the passport owner.

The invention relates to a method for manufacturing an identification document in book form, e.g. a passport, and to an apparatus for performing said method.

Passports usually have the form of a small booklet consisting of a linen or plastic cover and, in general, a plurality of paper sheets. For increasing the safety against forgery it has lately been adopted to provide at least the page of the passport which contains the photographically applied, person-related data such as name, date of birth, photograph, signature etc. with a transparent plastic foil so as to prevent said data from being directly accessible.

Moreover, a pattern is imprinted into the surface of the laminated plastic foil and the name of the passport owner is brought in once more, namely in the form of an engraving produced by a laser beam. Other pages of the passport contain, for instance, data printed by a matrix printer as well as a punched registration number.

The plastic coating of the data sheet renders the manufacture laborious, and particularly entails that already personalized documents have to be reproduced in a complicated manner, if, for example, defects in the lamination or impression have occurred. As the lamination, the imprinting of the surface of the laminated data sheet and the engraving of the name in the photograph section by means of a laser beam can only take place after the person-related data (name, place of birth etc.) have been applied photographically, said reproduction of faulty passports makes it necessary that the personal data are made available once more. Only then can the correctly prepared data sheet be bound to form a book together with additional paper sheets and a cover made of plastic, linen or another material.

When binding identification documents consisting of several sheets with respectively different person-related data, it must moreover be ensured that the data sheets for a specific passport provided by the various work stations are correctly allocated in the binding station. Said allocation is even harder to control the more voluminous the preparatory operations for preparing the different data sheets containing the person-related data are.

It is the object of the invention to provide a method for manufacturing an identification document in book form, whereby the manufacture is easy in performance and involves as little waste as possible, whereby there are practically no problems in associating the data sheets belonging to an identification document and whereby the person-related data such as name, photograph, signature etc. can be brought in in a forgery-safe manner. Furthermore, an apparatus for performing said method is provided.

Said object is provided by the invention described in claim 1 and claim 4.

In contrast to the above-described known methods, according to which the person-related data are applied photographically before the data sheet is laminated and bound with other sheets, the invention provides that the data sheet is coated with the transparent plastic foil first, and only then are the person-related data burnt into the data sheet by means of a laser beam. According to a preferred embodiment the

binding of the laminated data sheet with the other non-laminated sheets is likewise performed prior to the inscription of the person-related data.

The method according to the invention and according to the preferred embodiment thus permits the incorporation of the person-related data into the completely finished passport already bound to form a book. The production of the passport, i.e. the preparation of the individual sheets, the lamination, the impression and the binding is a process completely separate from the passport personalization process, i.e. incorporation of the person-related data. The production of the passport and the final control can, therefore, take place in corresponding special workshops, so that only passports of high quality are subjected to the personalization. The passport personalization may be performed in any optional location, for example, locally in corresponding personalization stations.

The method according to the invention makes advantageously use of an invention, for example, described in the German patent print 29 07 004. Said patent relates to an identity card, where the person-related information are burnt into the internal paper sheet coated with plastic on both sides.

By means of said laser inscription the data sheet of the passport manufactured in accordance with the invention is provided with a high degree of safety against forgery, as the inscribed or burnt in data are not only visually recognizably provided in the internal paper or plastic sheet of PVC, polyethylene, polycarbonate or any other material, but they are also provided congruently in the plastic foil on top thereof.

If the recording parameters are selected correspondingly, the data can be recorded by simultaneously forming a congruent surface relief in the outer plastic foil. It is, however, also possible to merely effect a discoloration in the transparent plastic foil with the result that the smooth surface is preserved. The laser beam recording is thereby suited also for the recording of the machine-readably data lines.

The use of a laser beam for recording data also allows the incorporation of optically variable authenticity characteristics, which is, for instance, known from the German laid open patent applications 35 36 740 and 35 36 739.

Therefore, this document comprises elements which cannot be reproduced by means of copying.

The method according to the invention permits the manufacture of a passport not yet relating to the owner thereof, and to the final personalization of the passport shortly before, or preferably even after the binding.

As the plastic lamination takes place prior to the inscription of the person-related data, it is no longer necessary to once more specifically reproduce the waste produced during the subsequent lamination, in other words, to perform the entire personalization process including the procuring of the data etc. one more time.

The neutral laminated data sheets are preferably manufactured from large sheets, i.e. in the form of a large sheet containing a plurality of individual data sheets, whereby the large sheets are cut into the individual data sheets after the lamination and the impression.

In accordance with a particularly preferable embodiment of the invention not only the data sheet covered with the transparent plastic foil, but also the additional sheets, which may not be covered with a plastic foil, are inscribed with the corresponding, partially also person-related data by means of a laser beam. A laser beam may also be used for blackening and thereby inscribing the additional paper or plastic sheets not provided with a transparent plastic foil.

In this respect it may be required to change the parameters such as the pulse length, or to use a second laser source working, if required, in an operating mode different from the continuously working pulse operation. Paper or plastic sheets may be used as additional data sheets, which are made of a material capable of receiving laser inscription in response to the type of laser used, or which are provided with a corresponding surface coating. The surface coating can cover the entire surface or may be limited to the areas actually to be provided with the inscription. Coating materials to be marked with laser beams, which may be applied onto the carrier to be provided with the inscription, for example, as lacquer or color coatings, are for instance known from EP-A 190 997. By appropriately adjusting the intensity of the

laser beam, moreover, a punching of the paper sheets may be achieved. In accordance with the inventive method printing devices such as a matrix printer as well as punching apparatus, both of which were previously required for the personalization, are therefore no longer necessary.

As was mentioned above, the data can be applied to the non-laminated sheets either by printing, which is typical, for example by means of a matrix printer, or by means of a laser beam. If a second printing device is used for imprinting the additional (non-laminated) data sheet or the additional data sheets, said printing device, just like the laser station, is preferably connected to the same data memory in which the person-related data are stored. This ensures an economically and organizationally easy provision of the data, and it is particularly guaranteed that the data belonging together, i.e. the data relating to only one passport owner, are inscribed at all times into the different data sheets belonging to a passport. Problems in respect of the allocation are thereby avoided.

An alternative covered by the apparatus according to the invention comprises a document transportation device connecting the laser station, the binding station and, if required, additional intermediate stations, whereby the laminating station is, however, arranged separately.

In another alternative covered by the apparatus according to the invention the laser station is arranged independently of the laminating station and also of the binding station. The already completely bound passport is, for the purpose of personalization, automatically opened by a suitable device, is transported in said form to the laser station, where it is personalized, and is eventually shut again automatically. Devices for opening books are known (e.g. EP-PS 123 188). Alternatively, the passports can be stacked in an open state also after the binding so as to be withdrawn from the stack in an open state and transported to the laser station for the inscription. By means of a relatively simple device the passports can thereafter be shut again.

Embodiments of the invention will hereinafter be explained by means of the drawing, wherein

- Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of an opened passport,
Fig. 2 shows a cross-sectional view of a laminated data sheet for the passport according to fig. 1,
Fig. 3 shows a block diagram of a device for the manufacture of passports,
Fig. 4 shows a block diagram of a device for the personalization of passports,
Fig. 5 shows a simplified partial illustration of a passport transportation device,
Fig. 6 shows a block diagram of a device for the personalization of passports,
Fig. 7 shows a simplified illustration of a device for shutting opened passports,
Fig. 8 shows a top view of a transportation belt system for transporting opened passports,
Fig. 9 shows a schematic illustration of a device for transporting opened passports, and
Fig. 10 shows an illustration of an opened passport with a laminated data sheet hanging down.

Fig. 1 shows a passport 1 comprising a plastic or linen cover with a front cover sheet 2a and a rear cover sheet 2b, a first data sheet 3 covered with a plastic foil on both sides, a second data sheet 4, a third data sheet 5 and an empty sheet 6. The sheets 4, 5 and 6 as well as possibly additional non-illustrated empty sheets are preferably made of paper or another material having a surface quality that permits registrations (renewals, visa etc.) at a later time.

Sheet 4 contains information on the place of residence, body height, eye color and possibly additional information on the passport owner on the front side (covered in fig. 1). Information on the children of the passport owner are provided on the rear side of the data sheet 4. A stamped in passport number is provided at the lower edge of the data sheet 4.

Data sheet 3 illustrated as a cross-section in fig. 2 comprises two transparent plastic foils 3a and 3b, between which an internal paper sheet 3d provided with a safety print and a water mark is enclosed. The edges of both plastic foils 3a and 3b are welded together at 3e. An imprint d pattern 3c is outlined on the upper side of data sheet 3.

The passport number and the designation for the issuing state are printed onto the front side of data sheet 3, which is covered in fig. 1.

As can be seen in fig. 1 the rear side of the laminated data sheet 3 comprises a smooth surface area 30 at the outer edge, which is reserved for the machine-readable data lines. When providing said data field with an inscription, the laser beam intensity and, if required, additional parameters (scanning speed etc.) are controlled such that a discoloration is effected only in the interior of the data sheet, i.e. the paper or plastic foil, while the outer plastic surface remains undamaged and, therefore, smooth. Adjacent thereto is an area comprising a surface relief 31 which serves to increase the safety against forgery. A photograph of the passport owner 33 likewise applied by means of a laser is provided in the left-hand top corner ("top" relates to the area of the spine of the book-shaped passport). Below the name of the passport owner the date of birth of the passport owner is indicated at 35 and the place of birth of the passport owner is indicated at 36. A section 37 for the signature of the passport owner is provided underneath thereof, whereby the signature, like any other owner-related data on the laminated data sheet 3, is burnt into the internal paper sheet 3d by means of a laser beam (German patent print 29 07 004). The format of the data sheet is selected such that it slightly exceeds the size of the passport for binding it into the passport by forming a marginal area 38 reappearing at the end of the passport. By burning the data in they become visible on the internal paper sheet, and moreover, upon a corresponding selection of the recording parameters, the surface structure of the above provided plastic foil is changed by forming a relief, which is congruent with the burnt in sections in the internal paper sheet.

When the personal data are recorded, the photograph of the passport owner and the signature are captured, for example, by a video camera and are electronically processed in a form suited for the reproduction by the laser.

Fig. 3 shows a first embodiment of an apparatus for manufacturing the passport illustrated in fig. 1. Paper sheets not yet laminated are withdrawn from a stack in the direction of the arrow and are supplied to a laminating station S1, where the opaque paper sheets are laminated with a transparent plastic foil (e.g. PVC) on both sides

and are supplied to an imprinting station S2. In said imprinting station, for example, an emblem or a logo are imprinted into the plastic surface. Moreover, also section 31 of the rear side of the data sheet 3 may be provided with a relief pattern.

The so prepared data sheets are then intermediately stored and inspected for the good quality of the imprinted pattern and the lamination prior to the ongoing processing.

The inspected data sheets, laminated and provided with an imprinted pattern, are then supplied to a personalization device S4. The personalization device S4 comprises a laser station S41 and a printing device in form of a matrix, thermo-transfer, ink jet printer S42. A data processing system comprising a data memory D is connected to the personalization device S4, which contains the person-related data for the different data sheets 3, 4 etc. Non-laminated data sheets 4 are supplied to the printer S42 from a store stack 4. The printer prints the data on the basis of the respective data sets stored in the data memory D. Simultaneously with the imprinting of the data sheets 4 also the laminated data sheet 3 belonging the same passport is provided with an inscription in the laser station S41. If the data of a passport owner are stored in the data memory in form of a data set, each data set is supplied to the printer S42 and to the laser station S41. This ensures the allocation of the data sheets 3 and 4 belonging to a passport.

A punching station S5 is connected to the printer S42. Said punching station S5 is also supplied with data sheets 5 for the punching of the same. Just like the data sheets 3 inscribed by the laser beam and the empty sheets 6, the punched data sheets 4 and 5 are supplied to a binding station S6, where sheets 3, 4, 5 and 6 are bound to form a book with a linen cover 2.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention the inscription of the data into the data sheet 3 and, if required, also the imprinting of the data sheet 4 takes place after the binding of the passport is completed.

Fig. 4 shows a stack with bound-passports 1' not yet personalized. The shut passports 1' are supplied to an opening device A by means of a transport device. A

laser/printer station S4' is connected to the opening device A, where the information is inscribed into the data sheets 3 and 4 by means of a laser beam. Station S4' may separately comprise a laser device and a matrix printer. Preferably, however, station S4' only comprises a laser device with which both the laminated data sheet 3 and the non-laminated data sheet 4 can be provided with the inscription.

Station S4' is joined by a shutting device S. The completed passports 1 are stacked after they have been shut.

Fig. 5 schematically illustrates a part of a system in which the not yet personalized passports are opened and withdrawn one by one in an open state. For opening the passports and for exposing the pages to be provided with the inscription, apparatus and methods may be applied, which are, for example, known from EP-PS 129 188.

Fig. 6 shows an embodiment modified in comparison to the one according to fig. 4. The shut, not yet personalized passports 1' are supplied to an opening/page turning station SW. Connected to this station is a laser station S4' in which all pages to be imprinted are imprinted by means of a laser beam. If the inscription on a sheet is completed, the opened passport is supplied to station S4, and once the page has been turned the next data sheet is inscribed in the laser station. The completed personalized passport is then shut in a shutting station and is stacked.

Fig. 7 shows a simple device for shutting a completed personalized passport.

The passport is transported by a non-illustrated transport device to the center of a table formed by two pivotable flaps, so that the spine of the book-shaped passport is located approximately in the area of the slot formed between the flaps. By pivoting the two flaps 50a and 50b downwardly into the position shown in dotted lines the passport drops in the direction of the arrow and is thereby shut. The shut passport arrives between two transport belts 51a and 51b and is supplied by the same to a non-illustrated stack.

For transporting the opened passport it is recommended to use a belt conveyor in which the opened passport is held, for instance, between a lower belt 53 and two

upper belts 51 and 52. The two belts adjacent on both sides of the opened passport prevent the sheets of the passport from moving. By this or another kind of holding the passports in the laser station it is achieved that the respective data sheet adopts a predefined position and distance to the laser device.

In accordance with fig. 9 a passport 1' is transported on a base in an opened state, while the superior laminated data sheet 3 is driven by two rollers 61 and 62 having a vertical axis. The passport moves perpendicularly towards the plane of projection. By means of such a transport device the data sheet 3 is transported and retained in a position suitable for the inscription. According to this embodiment, also the front and the rear sides may be provided with an inscription without turning the data sheet.

According to fig. 10 the passport 1' may also be transported in a state, in which the laminated data sheet 3 is exposed at both sides and, for instance, hangs down, while the other sheets are opened far up. According to this form the front and the rear sides are likewise accessible for the inscription without requiring any mechanical intermediate steps.

Claims

1. Method for manufacturing an identification document in book form, e.g. a passport, comprising a plurality of sheets whereof at least one data sheet (3) contains person-related data, e.g. name, date of birth of the passport owner and the like, and is made of an opaque paper or plastic sheet covered at least on one side with a transparent plastic foil, characterized in that
 - the data sheet is provided with the transparent plastic foil in a first step, and
 - in a following step, the data sheet (3) together with the other sheets is bound to a unit to form a book and the person-related data are inscribed into the data sheet by means of a laser beam, wherein at least the opaque paper or plastic sheet is locally discolored so as to be visually recognizable.
2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the binding takes place prior to the inscription of the person-related data.
3. Method according to claim 1 and 2, characterized in that, apart from the data sheet covered with the transparent plastic foil, at least another sheet made of a material or coating capable of receiving laser inscription and not provided with a plastic foil is imprinted by a laser beam.
4. Apparatus for performing the method according to claim 1, characterized by
 - a laminating station (S1) in which the opaque paper or plastic sheet (3), if required imprinted with not person-related data, is provided with the transparent plastic foil (3a, 3b), and downstream of said station by:
 - a binding station in which the individual sheets of the document are bound to form a book, and
 - a laser station (S4, S41) in which the person-related are inscribed at least into the data sheet provided with a transparent plastic foil.
5. Device according to claim 4, characterized in that a printer (S42) for imprinting at least another data sheet (4) is provided and the laser station (S41) and the printer (S42) are both connected to a data memory (D) storing the person-related data.

6. Device according to claim 4, characterized in that the laser station is additionally capable of inscribing data into additional data sheets (4) not covered with a plastic foil, wherein the data sheets are made of a material capable of receiving laser inscription or have a surface coating capable of receiving laser inscription.
7. Device according to claim 5 or 6, characterized in that a punching device (S5) is provided for punching data into at least one of the sheets.
8. Device according to one of claims 4 to 7, characterized in that the laser station (S4, S41), the binding station (S6) and, if required, additional intermediate stations are connected to a document transporting device and are constructed or arranged independently of the laminating station.
9. Device according to one of claims 4 to 8, characterized in that an imprinting station (S2) is arranged downstream of the laminating station, in which at least one side of the plastic-coated data sheet (3) is provided with a surface relief (3c).
10. Device according to one of claims 4 to 7, characterized in that the laser station (S4') is arranged independently of the laminating station and also independently of the binding station, and an opening device (A) for opening the bound document and for exposing the page to be inscribed is arranged upstream of the laser station (S4) and a shutting device (S) is arranged downstream.
11. Device according to claim 10, characterized in that the opening device and the shutting device are combined to form a unit (SW) constructed as a page turning station.